

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been canceled. As a result, the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) has been rendered moot.

Claims 11 and 12 were indicated as allowable in item 3 of the Official Action (it is believed that the Examiner intended to refer to claims 11 and 12 rather than “claims 1-12” since claims 11 and 12 were the only claims not rejected in the Official Action).

Like allowed claims 11 and 12 (and unlike rejected claim 1), **new claim 13** recites both a **prism and an auxiliary prism**, and further recites that:

- each of the prism and auxiliary prism includes a total internal reflection surface,
- the total internal reflection surface of the prism reflects the light beam to impinge onto the light valve, and
- the total internal reflection surface of the auxiliary prism reflects light passing through the total internal reflection surface of the prism onto the projection lens.

These features of the optical recited in new claim 13 are illustrated in Fig. 8 of the present application, and supported by the accompanying description. Therefore, new claim 13 does not introduce “new matter.”

Neither U.S. Patent No. 6,461,000 (Magarill) nor U.S. Patent No. 6,666,557 (Choi) discloses or suggests, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, the arrangement of a prism and auxiliary prism recited in new claim 13. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 13 is allowable over the references of record.

Having thus overcome the sole rejection made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejection and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Serial Number 10/652,023

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
Registration No. 33,805

Date: August 25, 2005

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

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